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Message Text

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61
ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /072 W
---------- 003328
R 141700Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 599
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
US MISSION OECD PARIS
NRC BETHESDA
ERDA GERMANTOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EEC, IT
SUBJECT: LICENSES FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3268; (B) STATE 081747

1. SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 14 COURTESY CALL BY ECON/COMM MINISTER, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (MOI) DG FOR ENERGY SOURCES AND HEAVY INDUSTRY AMMASSARI CHARACTERIZED US SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL LICENSING AS "MISTAKE." AMMASSARI ASKED WHEN SHIPMENTS WOULD BE RESUMED, AND IF ERDA-HUDGINS VISIT WAS CONNECTED WITH SUSPENSION. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING INITIAL CALL BY ECON/COMM MINISTER, NEW

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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY DG FOR ENERGY SOURCES AMMASSARI ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF US SUSPENSION, AS WIDELY REPORTED IN ITALIAN PRESS, OF ENRICHED URANIUM SHIPMENTS TO EUROPE. WE NOTED CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS HANDLING PROCEDURES, AND POINTED OUT THAT (A) NO EMBARGO INVOLVED, AND (B) SUSPENSION PROBABLY DUE ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS INVOLVED IN REVIEWING PROCEDURES AND INDIVIDUAL EXPORT LICENSES. AMMASSARI NOTED US FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH AFFECTED COUNTRIES AND CALLED SUSPENSION A "MISTAKE" WHICH INEVITABLY RAISES QUESTION OF US RELIABILITY AS SUPPLIER ENRICHED URANIUM. SUSPENSION, CONTINUED AMMASSARI, SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY; PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS COULD HAVE BEEN IRONED OUT WHILE SHIPMENTS CARRIED OUT ON NORMAL BASIS, OR AT A MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXPLANATION. COMMENT: THESE POINTS ALREADY RAISED IN ITALIAN PRESS, WHICH QUOTES FROM SIMONET'S AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL A). HIDDEN US MOTIVES CITED IN ARTICLES INCLUDE ALLEGED US DESIRE TO DISCIPLINE EUROPEANS FOR LACK OF ACCEPTANCE OF US ENERGY STRATEGY. END COMMENT.

3. NOTING THAT SUPPLIES FOR ITALIAN REACTOR AT TRINO VERCELLESE INVOLVED, AMMASSARI ASKED WHEN SHIPMENTS WOULD BE RESUMED. WE TOLD HIM OF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF HUDGINS DELEGATION (REF B) AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT CLARI-FICATIONS MAY BE AVAILABLE DURING VISIT. WE ALSO NOTED THAT MATTTER COULD BE RAISED DURING INITIAL MEETING OF BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP IN EARLY MAY IF MATTER NOT RESOLVED BY THAT TIME.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AND ANY INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOI.BEAUDRY

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Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Disposition Reason:
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